

The result has been disastrous. According to the Pentagon's own audit, 3 of 12 divisions are no longer combat-ready.

Yes, we must balance the budget, but not by dangerously weakening this country's defenses.

We need to act now to reverse the steady decline our forces have endured since the leftover sixties flower children of the Clinton administration came to town, and act we will, starting today.

NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT ENDANGERS NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. GEJDENSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, what we will take up today is a bill that will cripple America and endanger American military personnel as they have never been endangered before. The bill should be retitled. It should be called the Saddam Hussein Full-Protection Act, because if this piece of legislation that we address today was in place, George Bush could not have pulled the world community together to stop Saddam Hussein's aggression.

But worse than that, in the future it will make every conflict an American conflict. It will make every casualty an American casualty. It will mean every dollar of every conflict will be an American taxpayer dollar.

In the Persian Gulf, 90 percent of the money that that war cost was paid for by other participants, not American taxpayers. It was a world responsibility.

What this legislation will do will cripple the Presidency, leaving him either with the choice of unilateral American action or no action at all.

Defeat this legislation. It endangers our national security.

□ 1115

TURN THE LIGHTS OUT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I am heading up one of four teams of the freshman class which was initiated to carry on the work of many who preceded us here in Congress, in an effort to reduce four Government bureaucracies: Department of Education, Department of Commerce, Department of HUD, and Department of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Energy is a gas guzzler. Back in the early 1970's the Government imposed price controls and allocation controls, and that contributed to developing a crisis, and the beltway solution here was to come with another bureaucracy, the Department of Energy.

Since then, the Reagan administration eliminated the price controls and

removed the crisis. Now it is time to turn the lights out on the Department of Energy.

You can see from the chart I have here that the Department of Energy has reinvented itself so that now 60 percent of it is a bomb factory. Only 20 percent is related to energy.

Once started, it is hard to eliminate a bureaucracy, but we are working with former secretary Don Hodele and others in Congress because we have a new Congress now, a new voice from the people that wants to downsize the Government.

Our President has talked about downsizing and privatizing, but the Department of Energy has actually increased its budget. Now it is time to tighten the belt and trade in this gas guzzler for a more efficient model.

YELTSIN SHOULD END THE CHECHNYAN WAR

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, this week has seen only fragmented progress toward ending the war in Chechnya. It is my hope when President Yeltsin gives his State of the Union Address tomorrow, he will define a clear strategy to end the Chechen conflict. We must do all we can to pressure President Yeltsin to end this costly and potentially protracted guerrilla war. We have invested a great deal in promoting democracy in Russia, and as long as the U.S. continues to provide aid to Russia, we have an obligation to ensure that Russia continues along this course of reform. The war in Chechnya certainly undermines these efforts, as the Russians have spent over \$2 billion in 8 weeks. Future IMF loans seem unlikely.

Please join me and Representative WOLF in sending a letter to President Clinton urging him not to attend the Moscow summit in May unless the Chechen war is ended. Over 56 Representatives have already signed this letter.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am amazed at the comments by our Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State concerning the fact that they are going to recommend vetoing the National Security Revitalization Act.

This bill addresses a crisis of paramount importance to our Nation, the defense of America.

Not one of our four military services has been left unscathed by the radical defense cuts imposed by the Clinton administration. The numbers are stagger-

ing, amounting to almost 65 percent in real spending dollars already. These massive cuts come at a time when the military is being asked to do more with less, in a world that is still very dangerous and unpredictable.

I served in the U.S. Air Force for 29 years, and I remember all too well the hollow forces of the seventies. I remember squadrons being grounded due to lack of spare parts, and I remember air crews dying because they lacked the proper amount of training. Now I am hearing those same stories again and again.

We as a Congress have no right demanding that our service men and women put their lives on the line at the same time we are slashing the funds they need to perform their mission successfully. We must do everything we can to ensure the safety and security of this Nation and the protection of those who risk their lives for us.

HOME ECONOMICS 100

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, our majority leader tells us that the minimum wage is a bad idea, and that he should know. After all Mr. ARMEY was a college economics professor. Well, maybe he should have taught home economics instead. Every home economics teacher knows about food costs and how far you have to stretch dollars to feed your family.

A home economics teacher shows students how to make meals and bake cookies, but also tells that you have to skip some dinners and desserts if you cannot afford them. And, even though it is a concept far too complicated for someone with a Ph.D. in economics, the fact is that you cannot afford those dinners and desserts if your wages never go up, but minimum wage opponents are not looking at you and your family, they are looking at charts and graphs.

They are not looking at your kitchen table, they are looking at tables of statistics. Well, hard-working Americans earning minimum wage are not statistics. They are real people trying to earn a decent, livable wage. So, I say to minimum wage opponents, maybe you got a Ph.D. in economics, but you get an "F" when it comes to the real economics of real families.

TAKING BACK CONTROL

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Republicans kept another promise we made to the American people in our Contract With America. We

passed a crime package that provides State and local governments the resources and flexibility to effectively fight crime in their communities and take violent criminals off the street.

Today, we bring H.R. 7, the National Security Revitalization Act, to the floor which addresses the military and defense policies of this Nation.

Under President Clinton, we have seen a drift in our foreign policy coupled with a dangerous decline in our military capability. And while the buck used to stop at the Oval Office, we have seen it passed more and more frequently to foreign command. A tragic example of this leadership void ended in the death of American soldiers on the streets of Mogadishu.

Today, we offer a bill that will put limits on placing U.S. troops under U.N. command and it will require prior authorization by Congress, before American troops are used in U.N.-organized nation building operations.

Mr. Speaker, while the President continues to pass the buck, our young men and women of the armed services end up paying the price. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as Republicans rush to enact the Contract With America, they brag about cutting spending, about eliminating agencies, about reducing the size of Government.

But wait a minute; go ahead and listen to what they say, but more importantly watch what they do. As the Republicans call for budget cuts, look at what they have done in H.R. 7. They have written a bill with billions and billions of dollars in new defense spending, new weapons systems. And then they snuck a new little something into the bill, H.R. 7: The Republican Contract With America mandates Congress to spend \$1.5 million on a new commission, a task force, a committee, a blue-ribbon panel, another layer of bureaucracy. Can it be that the Republicans have discovered that one of the problems in this country is a shortage of agencies and commissions and task forces and layers of bureaucracy? Time out for common sense. Do we really need a new commission to study military needs?

This new \$1.5 million commission is redundant, it is superfluous, it is another layer of bureaucracy. Mr. Speaker, it is the Full Employment Act for Unemployed Defense Consultants. I urge Members later today to support the Menendez amendment.

CARTERIZING OUR MILITARY

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, remember the Carter military buildup. Something about that statement doesn't ring true. And neither do the claims we have heard from the other side of the aisle about our proposal to strengthen our Nation's military.

Yesterday, we passed the final piece of the crime package that will allow us to take back our streets. The National Security Revitalization Act will allow us to take back our military. Just as we gave the men and women in blue the tools to do their job, we owe it to our men and women in the military the resources to do their job, protect our freedom.

This bill is about accountability. We will ensure that the United States is not a servant to the United Nations. No longer will our troops have to serve under foreign command. They will not serve in a blue baret when they serve the red, white, and blue.

Yesterday, we kept our promises to fight crime. Today, we will keep our promise to fight for those men and women who are protecting our freedom.

NATIONAL SECURITY ACT: DANGEROUS, RECKLESS, ISOLATIONIST

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, if the Congress passes this dangerous, reckless, isolationist bill called the National Security Act there will be no need for a State or Defense Department. There will be 230 House Republicans who can be secretaries of State and Defense, calling the shots for American national security and defense policy. God help us.

Mr. Speaker, we are debating the most radical reversal of U.S. foreign policy in 10 years. That is irresponsible.

Here is what this bill does: It eviscerates the President's conduct and ability to run foreign policy. It brings back the billion-dollar star wars program at the expense of the readiness of our troops. And what is the threat? The Power Rangers?

It destroys our peacekeeping ability at the United Nations, and Persian Gulf would not have been able to happen.

It disrupts NATO by deciding who can join and who cannot.

Mr. Speaker, America's allies, particularly at NATO, at this moment are asking if this is a joke or a bad dream, and our enemies are salivating.

THE HAWKS ARE BACK IN TOWN: FRUGAL, CHEAP

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we passed the final piece of the crime package dealing with personal safety, being personal safety, personal security. Today we are going to begin with national security.

Mr. Speaker, tell me what do you think of when you think of the 1970's? Do you think of disco, Watergate, inflation, sky-high interest rates, leisure suits? And, of course, a hollow military? It was not a good time in American history.

But, Mr. Speaker, the hawks are back in town; the hawks are back in town, having been elected by the American people in November. There is something we have to remember about this particular group of hawks: it is not just hawks but frugal hawks, cheapskate hawks, tight-with-a-buck hawks.

We are going to provide a very, very strong national security package, but we are going to do it under the microscope of fiscal responsibility. You can absolutely count on it.

When it comes to the national leadership, one of the things we absolutely know is that in the Congress, in the White House, in this country, just like the rest of the Nation, nature abhors a vacuum. So when we do not have leadership at the top, we have to find it somewhere. That is what this bill is all about.

TAKING CARE OF OUR VETERANS

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, if anyone needed any more proof that the Republican majority is prepared to march in lock-step, like lemmings over a cliff, look no further.

Last night, an amendment to the Republican welfare bill, which would have spared legal residents who have served this country in our Armed Forces from being cut off from social service programs, was defeated by the GOP on a strict party-line vote.

That is right, you heard me correctly. Every Republican, save one who so courageously voted "present," voted last night to repay the loyalty, dedication, and service of these veterans with a slap in the face. They made it clear that Republicans view permanent residents who serve their new country in the Armed Forces as immigrants first, and veterans second.

Instead of spending billions for star wars, Republicans should be taking care of their veterans.

Mr. Speaker, this outrageous action against those veterans who risked their lives on behalf of their country, so that we who serve in this body may do so in freedom, marks a dark day in our history.